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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/537,405

07/28/2005

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09857/0202953-US0

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09/30/2008

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EXAMINER

KRAUSE, ANDREW E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4152

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/30/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/537,405	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NAGAO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> ANDREW KRAUSE	<b>Art Unit</b> 4152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-2 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/24/05</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II in the reply filed on 9/11/08 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that once claims 3-11 are found allowable, applicants request rejoinder of claims 1 and 2 which are directed to the process of making the product of claims 3-11. This is not found persuasive because claims 3-11 are rejected as shown below.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. **Claim 3** is objected to because of the following informalities: "a group consisting of" should be changed to "the group consisting of". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims **3-11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims merely setting forth physical characteristics desired in article, and not setting forth specific compositions which would meet such characteristics, are invalid as vague, indefinite, and functional since they cover any conceivable combination of ingredients either presently existing or which might be discovered in future and which would impart desired characteristics; thus, expression “a granulated flavor for use in foods and beverages, **wherein the granulated flavor has a hardness of 1 N/mm<sup>2</sup> -50 N/mm<sup>2</sup>**” is indefinite since it purports to cover everything which will perform the desired functions regardless of its composition, and, in effect, recites compounds by what it is desired that they do rather than what they are; expression also is broad since it appears to read upon materials that could not possibly be used to accomplish purposes intended.—Ex parte Slob (PO BdApp) 157 USPQ 172.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. **Claims 3,5,6,8,9, and 11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Benczedi et al(USPGPUB # 2001/0036503 A1).

8. Regarding **claim 3**, Benczedi discloses a granulated flavor for use in foods and beverages containing: a carrier selected from the group consisting of hydrophilic proteins, **maltodextrin** (example 1), starches, modified starches, hydrophilic polysaccharides, partially hydrolyzed proteins, partially decomposed starches and saccharides, wherein the granulated flavor has a moisture content of 6% (example 1).

9. Though Benczedi does not explicitly disclose that the hardness of said granulated flavor particle is between 1 N/mm<sup>2</sup> -50 N/mm<sup>2</sup>, Johnson does disclose a chemical composition as claimed by the applicant.

10. "Products of identical chemical composition can not have mutually exclusive properties." A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. Therefore, if the prior art teaches the identical chemical structure, the properties applicant discloses and/or claims are necessarily present. *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990)

11. **Claims 6 and 9** are rejected as Benczedi teaches the product of **claim 3** as rejected above. Even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985), MPEP 2113.

12. Regarding claims **5, 8, and 11**, Benczedi discloses that the invention the flavor of claims **3,6, or 9** is for incorporation into processed foods, cooked products, or baked goods (paragraph 2).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

15. Claims **4, 7, and 10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benczedi et al(USPGPUB # 2001/0036503 A1).

16. Benczedi discloses the granulated flavor of claim **3, 6, or 9**, wherein the diameter of the extruded particles is 0.7mm (example 1) and that the length of the particles is adjustable (0051-0053) .

17. Benczedi does not explicitly disclose that the granulated flavor has a particle size of 105  $\mu\text{m}$ -2mm, wherein the proportion of the particles having that particle size is 85% or more by weight.

18. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to adjust the particle size and proportion of particles having that size for the intended application, since it has been held that discovering the optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

### *Conclusion*

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- 20. US 3695896 A
- 21. US 6537595 B1
- 22. US 6056949 A
- 23. US 7041311 B2
- 24. US 5192563 A
- 25. US 4588592 A
- 26. US 3801716 A
- 27. US 3801716 A
- 28. US 3801716 A
- 29. US 20030228357 A1
- 30. US 20030003219 A1
- 31. US 20020187223 A1
- 32. US 20020127321 A1
- 33. US 20010038879 A1
- 34. US 20010018092 A1
- 35. US 7351438 B2
- 36. US 6890575 B2

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- 37. US 6881432 B2
- 38. US 6849286 B1
- 39. US 6730291 B2
- 40.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW KRAUSE whose telephone number is (571)270-7094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5, off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Del Sole can be reached on (571)272-1130. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ANDREW KRAUSE/  
Examiner, Art Unit 4152

/Joseph S. Del Sole/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4152

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